

# The Reality of War

**Private William Kirk**

of Captain William Potter's Company

**2<sup>nd</sup> Rhode Island Regiment  
Continental Line**

**Fell Here**

**October 22, 1777**

**In Defense of Fort Mercer**

The human toll of the battle is evident in the loss of life. The practical side of military life is illustrated in the clothing inventories of those lost at the battle. Private William Kirk enlisted in the spring of 1777. His death at Fort Mercer resulted in the inventory of his clothing and equipment, probably in preparation for officers re-assigning his clothing to surviving soldiers.

- One uniform coat
- One Blue outside Jacket
- One Double Breasted Jacket all wool
- One Black Waistcoat worsted
- One Coarse Linen Shirt
- One white ditto (Linen Shirt) with Ruffles
- Two pairs of Linen overalls
- One pair of coarse worsted stockings
- Two knapsacks
- One Red Broad Cloth jacket without sleeves